

## ABSTRACT

The present invention provides an apparatus and method for determining the quality of a digital signal (S). The incoming digital signal (S) is sampled with a number  $n$  of samples per defined pulse width, whereby  $n \geq 1$ , using clock cycles ( $CLK$ ). In the following, an edge detector (20) detects the edge position of a pulse of the sampled digital signal and a counter (30) counts the clock cycles between at least a first edge and a second edge detected by the edge detector. A deviation detector (40) then compares the counted clock cycles (EEC) with a prestored reference-value ( $EEC_0$ ) in order to provide a deviation value (RJ) as a measure for the instantaneous quality of the digital signal (S). This deviation value (RJ) is then fed to a rework unit that outputs a value (J) that is a measure for the quality of the digital signal.

[Fig. 3]